(c) if so, whether there is any growing strains in the relationship with neighbouring China; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Deployment of a defence aircraft is undertaken keeping in view the operational requirement of the Services from time to time. This is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular political contacts between the leaders of the two countries. The two countries have established a dialogue architecture at all level to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Bilateral trade and economic relations have shown perceptible growth. The two sides have held two joint military training exercises. The functional cooperation between India and China is expanding in a number of areas. Both sides have agreed that they are committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations.

Indians in UN Peace Keeping Mission

3540. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians in UN Peace Keeping mission have suffered the largest number of casualties;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to personnel from developed countries; and

(c) the number out of them that have been awarded with bravery award by Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. Since the inception of UN peace keeping in 1948, 131 Indians have lost their lives, as on 30 June, 2009. During the same period, among the developed countries, the highest fatalities were from : Canada (114), UK (99) and France (98).

(c) One; Capt. Gurbachan Singh Salaria (1st Gorkha Rifles), was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) for having made the supreme sacrifice in Congo on 05 December, 1961.

Chinese advice regarding Indian Ocean

3541. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been seized of the Chinese advice reportedly communicated to the Commander of the United States' Pacific Fleet insisting upon recognizing the Indian Ocean as a Chinese sphere of influence to be managed by Chinese nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue was brought up during his recent talk with Chinese President in the sidelines of BRIC summit at Yekaterinburg;

(d) if so, Chinese response thereto; and

(e) the salient details of the strategic and/or diplomatic initiatives being taken, if any, to countering/pre-empting the impact of growing Chinese aggressive postures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Government has seen media reports to such effect. The Chinese side has clarified that this matter was never discussed with the United States and that the meida reports are incorrect.

(c) and (d) No. Does not arise.

(e) India and China have Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The two countries have established a dialogue architecture at all levels to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.

Pressure from US to resume talks with Pakistan

3542. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been witnessing growing pressure from the United States administration to resume dialogue with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the issues specifically being advised, if any, by the US administration on India to resolve;

(c) whether Government has been seized of the statement reported to had been made by the US Under Secretary of State William Burns in the Press Conference in our capital on June 11, 2009 insisting on "keeping the wishes of Kashmiris" under consideration in the future dialogue between India and Pakistan; and

(d) the details of India's response thereto communicated, if any, to the US Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is aware that Mr. William Burns, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, US State Department in response to a question on Kashmir during a press conference in New Delhi on 11 June said "It remains our view that resolution of the Kashmir issue has to take into account wishes of Kashmiri people."

(d) Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.